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Here Is Cleveland Police Report on Murder in Bay

Early on the morning of July 4, Cleveland homicide detectives, Patrick A. Gareau and Robert Schottke were sent to the Dr. Samuel H. Sheppard home at 28924 Lake Rd., Bay Village, to assist in the investigation of the brutal beating to death of Dr. Sheppard's wife, Marilyn.

Following is their report which is on file in Central Police Station. It is this report and this investigation which homicide detectives today are trying to "pick holes in."

By questioning Dr. Sheppard, Police Chief Frank W. Story, Detective Chief James E. McArthur and Capt. David E. Kerr are attempting to find that some of Dr. Sheppard's statements are false. They hope to base an indictment for first degree murder on what they find out and find untrue.

Dr. Sheppard has stuck by his original story with few variations.

The report follows:

At 8:05 this date, July 4, while assigned to Car 478 with Detective Schottke, received an office assignment to assist the Bay Village Police Department in the investigation of a homicide at the Dr. Sheppard residence, 28924 Lake Rd., Bay Village. Upon arrival at the scene, met Dr. Samuel Gerber, county coroner, Police Chief Eaton, Sgt. Hubach, Patrolmen Drenkhan and Cavagh of the Bay Village police department and together investigated.

At the scene our attention was directed to an upstairs bedroom situated at the top of the stairway on the second floor in the bedroom which contained two beds, twin size type. We found the body of a white female lying on the top of

the bed. The body was lying on its back, the head resting about the middle of the bed and pointing in a southerly direction.

The legs were bent at the knees, resting underneath a horizontal post that extended the width of the footboard. The lower part of the legs were dangling over the bottom edge of the mattress pointed in a northerly direction.

The arms were in a horizontal plane with body bent at the elbows and the hands were resting on the stomach.

Examination of the body of the victim showed numerous deep lacerations of the forehead and head and the upper part of the body was covered

with blood. The victim was clothed in a white short-sleeved pajama top open in the front. A pair of pajama bottoms on the right leg were bunched at the right knee.

Underneath the body as it was being removed from the bed two broken tooth facings were found laying on the bed in the region where the small of the back was resting by Dr. Gerber and Detective Schottke.

(These tooth fragments were later to be found those of Mrs. Sheppard).

Learned the victim to be Marilyn Reese Sheppard, 31, white, married of 28924 Lake Rd., Bay

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Bare Full Report On Killing at Bay

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Village. Pronounced dead at the scene at about 6:30 a. m. by Dr. Richard N. Sheppard. Conveyed to county morgue by private ambulance where an autopsy was performed which revealed approximately 27 lacerations about the head and forehead, death resulting from skull fracture due to violence.

Examination of the bedroom revealed a large blood spot on the pillow at the head of the bed on which the victim was laying. A larger blood spot on the bed under the victim's head, numerous blood spots on the south wall, and curtains, and numerous blood spots on the east wall, closet door and entrance door that was apparently open at the time of the homicide.

On a chair located at the corner and east walls we found the following clothing:

A pair of white ladies shorts, a pair of ladies blue shorts, a white brassiere and over the top of the left corner of the chair we found one beige long-sleeved men's sport shirt. None of the furniture had been disarranged and apparently no signs of a struggle in the room.

Examination of the downstairs of the house revealed several drawers in a downstairs doctor's office pulled from a desk and overturned. A bag of surgical instruments was found overturned in a hallway outside the doctor's office. On the floor in front of the desk in the doctor's office were found a lady's yellow gold wrist watch with a yellow gold stretch band. Three drawers were pulled from a desk in the living room and overturned. Several exposures were taken at the scene by Detective Grabowski.

We went to Bay View Hospital and interviewed Dr. Sam Sheppard and he stated that last night they were entertaining guests, Mr. and Mrs. Don Ahern of 29146 Lake Rd., Bay Village. About 12 a. m. he became sleepy and he laid on a sofa in the living room at the bottom of the stairway leading upstairs and fell asleep. He further stated that he

awakened suddenly when he heard his wife screaming.

(Later he said he heard her yelling "Sam, Sam, Sam!")

Dr. Sheppard stated that he ran up the stairs to his wife's bedroom. As he got to the top of the stairs he saw a man and also heard someone working over his wife and that the man he saw struck him on the side of the head with his fist and knocked him unconscious.

(Later he said he was struck by an unknown man as he went into his wife's room to battle the man who was striking his wife.)

He stated that when he came to consciousness he heard someone making noise downstairs. He ran down and saw a man run out of the rear door and he ran after him.

(Later he said he came to, picked up his billfold lying on the floor, went to his wife's room and then went to his son Chip's room to ascertain if he was all right and was feeling his wife's pulse when he heard a noise downstairs.)

He stated that this man ran down the stairs leading to the beach and he pursued the man and when he got onto the beach he tackled him and started a struggle with him and struck him with his fist.

Dr. Sheppard further stated that he was knocked unconscious again and that when he became conscious he was lying on his stomach in the lake and that he knows that it was day-break. He stated he went back up to the house and went to his wife's room and attempted to administer to her and found she was dead.

He stated he called Mayor John S. Houk of Bay Village on the telephone and told him to come over because he thought his wife was dead and that someone killed her.

Dr. Sam Sheppard further stated that the mayor came to his house and also his brother, Dr. Richard N. Sheppard, and



Court attaches used chairs and desks in the clerk's office next to Common Pleas Judge Frank J. Merrick's courtroom to get a glimpse of Dr. Samuel H. Sheppard and listen to the court proceedings.

the police and he was taken to Bay View Hospital. Dr. Sam was treated by Dr. Steve Sheppard, brother of the victim.

His brother reports him to be suffering from concussion of the brain and possible fracture of the vertebrae in the rear of the neck.

We returned to the scene and searched the grounds about the Sheppard home and about 15 feet south of the beach house located at the foot of the stairway leading from the Sheppard property to the beach in a dense underbrush a Boy Scout assisting in the search found a green felt bag and looking in this bag we found a yellow gold self-winding wrist watch, a college fraternity ring and a key chain with a football, keys, knife, a gold metal tag bearing the initials S. S.

Examination of the watch reveals blood stains in the gold stretch band and water inside the face of the watch.

With Police Chief Eaton we returned to Bay View Hospital and questioned Dr. Sheppard with regard to his personal property and he could give no explanation about it. Dr. Sheppard then told us that he stopped to look at his wife after he was knocked unconscious upstairs and perhaps got the blood on the watch when he looked at his wife upstairs before he came down to discover the man run out the back door.

He further stated that at this particular time when he became conscious upstairs he saw his billfold lying on the floor and he picked it up and put it in his pocket. Dr. Sheppard did not volunteer this last bit of information until we questioned him with regard to the man not taking his wallet from his pocket when they had taken his jewelry as he claimed.

We examined the clothing that was taken from Dr. Sheppard when he was brought to the hospital and we found that his clothing was still wet and his wallet was in his right rear trousers pocket and in this wallet we found three \$1 bills and a check for \$1,000.

The pocket in which the wallet was located has stains from the leather wallet apparently caused by the water when his clothing got wet. There was a pair of brown leather loafers and a pair of wool white sweat sox. These articles were also wet.

We questioned Dr. Sheppard about money and the check still remaining in the wallet and he could give no explanation for this.

We returned to the scene and searched the premises for a white T-shirt which Dr. Sheppard was supposed to have worn and couldn't find on the premises.

We searched the garage for any possible weapons and in the trunk of a Jaguar that had keys in the trunk lock we found two special chrome-plated wrenches in a tool bag. These wrenches are about 15 inches long and are quite heavy. They are about an inch wide and one-quarter-inch thick.

These wrenches were turned over to Dr. Gerber for comparison with the lacerations marks. The personal property of ring, watch, etc., also turned over to Dr. Gerber.

The time indicated on the watch which was stopped was 4:15.

Interviewed Mayor John Houk and he stated that he was called by Dr. Sheppard

at 5:50 and that he and his wife went to Dr. Sheppard's house after calling the police and that he found Dr. Sam Sheppard seated in his downstairs office, mumbling incoherently and in a dazed condition stated that he heard his wife scream and ran to her assistance and went on to state substantially what Dr. Sheppard had told us.

Interviewed Mr. and Mrs. Don Ahern and Mr. Ahern stated that Mr. and Mrs. Sam Sheppard went to their house about dinner time and had a few cocktails and the group went to the Sheppards and remained there until about 12:10 this morning when they had gone home. Mr. Ahern stated about 12 a. m. Dr. Sheppard stretched out on the sofa in the living room and went to sleep.

He further stated that Mrs. Sheppard went to the door with them as they departed and Mrs. Sheppard told them that she was tired and that she was going to go to bed.

Questioned Mr. Ahern with respect to his knowledge of any ill feelings between the Sheppards and he stated that he thought them to be very much in love with each other.

We learned from a confidential source that Dr. Lester Hoverston, 1100 North Mission Rd., Los Angeles, a school chum of Dr. Sheppard was staying with the Sheppards over the holiday. Dr. Hoverston was supposed to be infatuated by Marilyn Sheppard and his advances were spurned by her.

It was learned that Dr. Hoverston departed the Sheppard home sometime yesterday afternoon before Dr. Sam Sheppard returned home in the evening from his duty hours at Bay View to keep a golf engagement at Kent, O. It was learned also that Dr. Hoverston visited the Sheppard home for quite some time when he was a resident physician at Bay View.

While at Bay View Hospital on our second visit Dr. Hoverston called from Kent, O., and I spoke to him and requested he return to Bay Village and report to Chief Eaton and answer some questions.

We questioned Dr. Sheppard with reference to the rumor of Dr. Hoverston's infatuation and he stated he was aware of the rumor and said perhaps it was true and he further stated that several men liked his wife and was thoroughly convinced of her faithfulness.

When we arrived at the scene this a. m. we searched the beach for evidence and we found imprints of a woman's bare feet in the sand and an exposure was made of a footprint by Scientific Identification Bureau.

*(It was found this could have been the footprint of anyone using the beach that morning or at any time.)

Learned further that Dr. Sam Sheppard has bruises on the inside of the lower cheek and he has several teeth chipped.

Editor's Note—Parenthetical matter indicates what police later learned in their investigation which is not in the original report of the two policemen.